



The FDA provides fund for three important projects.

On Wednesday morning three ministers of the Aruban government signed contracts with the Fondo Desaroyo Aruba (FDA) to improve the efficiency of a number of important agencies. The Ministries of Minister of Justice, Rudy Croes, Minister of Finance, Nilo Swaen and the Minister of Health and Welfare, Booshi Wever will all receive funds from the FDA in of a total of 1.5 million florins. These funds have been earmarked for new and ongoing projects that are considered essential to improving the service to the public and professionalism of varying departments under their authority.

All three contracts were additionally signed by Minister Swaens, representing the Ministry of Finance that is responsible for the funding along with Roy Brown, President of the Governing Board of the FDA.

The funds for the Ministry of Finance will be applied to a project to automate the Tax Offices, a contract that is being completed by IBM World Trade Corporation and has been in progress. The Tax offices received an additional 420, 152 Aruban florins for its completion. Mr. Niek Kort also signed the contract for this project as representative of IBM World Trade Corporation.

Signing a contract along with Minister Croes was the President of the University of Aruba, Ms. J. Figaroa-Semeleer, for the commencement of a program to train the staff of the Department of Legislation and Legal Affairs. This course will be to train individuals with law degrees in the proper wording of legislation, to increase the efficiency with which new laws are written and submitted to be made into legislation. This project received 412, 699 Aruban florins for completion.

Finally, Minister Wever along with Mr. Frans J. Willekens of the Nederlands Interdisciplinair Demografisch Intituut (NIDI) of Holland signed an agreement for 730,000 Aruban Florins. NIDI is conducting a study of the island's public health system (AZV), which is hoped will provide an understanding of the most efficient uses of the system and recommendations for its operation that will assist in best serving the public.

Additionally present for the signing of these agreements were staff of the different departments involved and members of the FDA and the Aruba Investment Bank (AIB) N.V.

With these additional funds, the FDA will have provided a total of 157.5 million florins since 2002 that are contributed both by the governments of Aruba and Holland for these existing and new projects which are expected to be completed by the year 2009. Ministers Croes, Swaen, and Wever, along with administrators of their agencies expressed confidence that the programs initiated and projects completed with these funds will assist the government in better serving the people of Aruba.